

**U.S. District Court**  
**District of Columbia (Washington, DC)**  
**CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-01073-CRC**

WITTES v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Assigned to: Judge Christopher R. Cooper  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 05/07/2018  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff****BENJAMIN WITTES**

represented by **Laurence M. Schwartztol**  
PROTECT DEMOCRACY PROJECT  
2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
#163  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 945-2092  
Fax: (929) 777-8428  
Email: [larry.schwartztol@protectdemocracy.org](mailto:larry.schwartztol@protectdemocracy.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant****U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Damon William Taaffe**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
555 Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 252-2519  
Fax: (202) 252-2599  
Email: [damon.taaffe@usdoj.gov](mailto:damon.taaffe@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
05/07/2018	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5466473) filed by BENJAMIN WITTES. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Exhibit, # <u>3</u> Exhibit, # <u>4</u> Summons, # <u>5</u> Summons, # <u>6</u> Summons)(Schwartztol, Laurence) (Attachment 1 replaced on 5/8/2018) (zmd). (Entered: 05/07/2018)
05/07/2018		Case Assigned to Judge Christopher R. Cooper. (zmd) (Entered: 05/08/2018)
05/08/2018	<u>2</u>	SUMMONS (3)Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent) (zmd) (Entered: 05/08/2018)
05/18/2018	<u>3</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Damon William Taaffe on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 05/18/2018)
05/21/2018	<u>4</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 5/15/2018. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 6/14/2018. (Schwartztol, Laurence) (Entered: 05/21/2018)
05/21/2018	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 5/15/18. (Schwartztol, Laurence) (Entered: 05/21/2018)

05/21/2018	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 5/15/2018 (Schwartztol, Laurence) (Entered: 05/21/2018)
06/14/2018	<u>7</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 06/14/2018)
06/14/2018	<u>8</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Damon William Taaffe on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 06/14/2018)
06/26/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Before the Court in this FOIA case are a complaint and an answer. It is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall confer and file a joint proposed schedule for briefing or disclosure by July 12, 2018. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 6/26/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 06/26/2018)
06/27/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Proposed Briefing Schedule due by 7/12/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 06/27/2018)
07/12/2018	<u>9</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 07/12/2018)
07/18/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Defendant shall make its first release of responsive records by August 31, 2018, and make monthly releases thereafter to the extent necessary. The parties shall also file a Joint Status Report by September 7, 2018, in which they will report on their progress and propose a briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 7/18/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 07/18/2018)
07/19/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: First release of responsive records due by 8/31/2018; monthly releases due thereafter to the extent necessary. Joint Status Report due by 9/7/2018. (jl) (Entered: 07/19/2018)
08/03/2018	<u>10</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to BENJAMIN WITTES. (Murphy, Allison) (Entered: 08/03/2018)
09/05/2018	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 09/05/2018)
09/05/2018		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the parties' <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further Joint Status Report by October 15, 2018, in which they will report on their progress and propose a briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 09/05/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 09/05/2018)
09/06/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/15/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 09/06/2018)
10/15/2018	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 10/15/2018)
10/17/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>12</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further status report on or before November 15, 2018, to include a proposed briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 10/17/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 10/17/2018)
10/17/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Further Status Report due by 11/15/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 10/17/2018)
11/14/2018	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 11/14/2018)
11/16/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further status report on or before December 14, 2018, to include a proposed briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 11/16/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 11/16/2018)
11/19/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report and Proposed Briefing Schedule due by 12/14/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 11/19/2018)
12/14/2018	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 12/14/2018)